

Fig. 1 of Cooper). In fact, nowhere in Cooper does it disclose or even suggest that Cooper's machine operates as an internet facsimile device. Stated differently, Cooper does not disclose or even suggest an internet facsimile device that prints the image formed by the image forming means, as recited in independent claim 14 and similarly recited in independent claim 21.

Moreover, Cooper does not disclose or even suggest the image forming means forms an image based on the electronic mail data which has been determined to have a high priority, as recited in independent claim 14, and similarly recited in independent claim 21.

The Office Action on page 3 asserts that the printer 36 of Cooper corresponds to the image forming means of the claimed invention. On the contrary, Cooper's printer 36 prints message data that is selected by a user from a list displayed on a display 16 (see col. 7, lines 15-36). The printer 36 does not print message data which has been determined to have high priority. In the claimed invention, the message data having been determined to have high priority is automatically printed without any instructions from a user. The advantage of this feature is that, among others, it overcomes the problem that high priority information which the receiver should read first is not read by the receiver for an extended period of time. That is, in the claimed invention, printing out the high priority data prompts the receiver to promptly read the received data. Cooper does not disclose or even suggest this feature. Stated differently, Cooper does not disclose or even suggest the image forming means forms an image based on the electronic mail data which has been determined to have a high priority.

Moreover, claim 18 recites features that are neither disclosed nor even suggested by Cooper. In particular, Cooper does not disclose or even suggest notifying means for notifying a user when the image forming means forms an image based on the electronic mail data which has been determined to have a high priority, as recited in claim 18.

Instead, Cooper discloses that a user may configure a paging function to occur only upon predetermined events. The answering machine pages the user only if, upon examining all

of the header information in the user's e-mail box, it finds information that matches the predetermined information the user specified at the setup time (see col. 6, lines 16-65). Stated differently, Cooper's machine merely informs the user that a user's selected e-mail has been received by the machine. However, Cooper does not disclose or even suggest the image forming means forms an image based on the electronic mail data which has been determined to have a high priority.

Additionally, Owens does not cure the above noted deficiencies of Cooper. Owens discloses that the incoming messages are examined to identify the individual message receivers. Each message receiver's personal messages are then stored in an electronic mail box located at the electronic mail server's network node. (See col. 5, lines 19-57). Owens makes no mention about priority or printing. In fact, Owens' electronic mail server does not even have a printing means. Furthermore, Owens' electronic mailer server is not an internet facsimile device.

Accordingly, independent claims 14 and 21 define patentable subject matter. Claim 18 also defines patentable subject matter. Claims 15-16, 19 and 22 depend from the respective independent claims, and therefore also define patentable subject matter. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 14-16, 18, 19, 21 and 22 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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